

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

2 INTRODUCED BY J. COHENOUR

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE BE ASSIGNED TO STUDY THE
6 IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 131, ENACTED AS CHAPTER 313, LAWS OF 2001, TO REVISE
7 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ESTABLISH A CHIEF INFORMATION
8 OFFICER, AND DEVELOP A STATE STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN; SPECIFYING
9 STUDY OBJECTIVES; AND REQUESTING A REPORT TO THE 60TH LEGISLATURE.

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11 WHEREAS, a range of issues related to information technology needs and costs compelled the 2001
12 Montana Legislature to enact Senate Bill No. 131, which generally revised the laws governing information
13 technology, provided for a chief information officer for the state, established an Information Technology Board,
14 and required a state strategic information technology plan; and

15 WHEREAS, the policy issues driving enactment of Senate Bill No. 131 included concern about
16 increasing costs, the need to promote collaboration and coordination and for the ability to interface among
17 various state agencies and systems, and a desire to ensure that information technology purchases were
18 strategically managed in the most cost-effective manner; and

19 WHEREAS, the purpose of Senate Bill No. 131 was to enhance the productivity of state agencies, to
20 provide better services to customers, and to facilitate public/private partnerships; and

21 WHEREAS, it was not the intent of the Legislature to hinder or burden state agencies, increase costs,
22 degrade capabilities, or stifle a collaborative and participatory decisionmaking process; and

23 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Legislature to examine the effects of its legislation, monitor how its
24 policies are being interpreted and implemented, and adjust legislative policy accordingly.

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26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
27 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

28 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
29 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

30 (1) examine the administrative rules adopted to implement Senate Bill No. 131, including the manner

1 in which the rulemaking process was executed and how stakeholder concerns were considered and addressed;

2 (2) examine the state's strategic information technology plan provided for in section 2-17-521, MCA,
3 including:

4 (a) how the plan was initially developed and if or how it has been revised;

5 (b) the role of the Information Technology Board;

6 (c) how individual agency plans were initially developed and incorporated into the state plan and the
7 subsequent interactions between the agency plans and the state plan; and

8 (d) the efficacy of the state plan and whether or how the state plan furthers the policy goals set by the
9 Legislature, including whether the plan improves efficiency, enhances customer services, and establishes
10 effective public/private partnerships;

11 (3) examine specific management and fiscal information about the personnel and operational costs
12 associated with implementation of Senate Bill No. 131, including whether new employee positions were created
13 or eliminated, how much time and the amount of resources that were dedicated to agency information
14 technology plans and the statewide strategic information technology plan, any cost-savings or new costs that
15 occurred, or any identifiable increase or decrease in administrative burdens on agencies in order to develop the
16 plans or that have resulted from implementing the plans;

17 (4) examine whether the services provided by the Information Technology Services Division have
18 improved and what cost-savings, service enhancements, and public/private partnerships have been achieved
19 as a result of Senate Bill No. 131; and

20 (5) evaluate the role of advisory groups in implementing Senate Bill No. 131, including the role of the
21 Information Technology Board, the SummitNet Executive Council, the Electronic Government Advisory Council,
22 the Information Technology Manager's Council, and others.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to an interim committee, that the committee
24 receive appropriate staff support to perform this study, complete the necessary work before September 15, 2006,
25 and report its findings and recommendations, including any legislation, to the 60th Legislature.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
27 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate interim committee designated by the Legislative Council and that
28 all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15,
29 2006.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

1 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

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